

From: Jeremy Tietsort
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would like to voice my disapproval of the proposed judgement. There are many areas where it does not serve the public interest, but I will point out one in particular.

There is no mention of remedies for the use of undocumented file formats. Microsoft uses the file format of its popular Office programs for two things.

First, by changing file formats with each version, they can ensure that people using two different versions of the software will not have seamless interoperability. By doing this, if one person upgrades, then the person that they are communicating with must upgrade also.

Second, competing software currently has to figure out each version of the Microsoft file formats in order to be interoperable with Microsoft Office. This practice usually means that they are months or years behind in trying to keep up with Microsoft's ever changing format. By forcing Microsoft to publish its file formats, other competing software packages would have a chance to be interoperable and remove the current Applications Barrier to Entry.

- Jeremy Tietsort